

Filed for intro on 06/05/2000

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 894
By Rochelle

A RESOLUTION to honor and celebrate the 100th anniversary of
the First Baptist Church of Mt. Juliet.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to the
dedicated members of those exemplary religious organizations who, through their hard work
and dedication, have stood the test of time to serve as examples for present and future
generations; and

WHEREAS, the First Baptist Church of Mt. Juliet is most assuredly one such
extraordinary group of people who are deserving of special praise and commendation; and

WHEREAS, this year, the church's congregation will celebrate 100 years of positive
influence in Mt. Juliet and the many different mission points by which they have helped to carry
the Gospel; and

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WHEREAS, the celebration will be a time of reflecting on the past, giving thanks for the present, and eagerly anticipating the future; and

WHEREAS, the First Baptist Church of Mt. Juliet has weathered the storms of life for nearly a century and is still pressing toward the attainment of the higher calling of God in Christ Jesus; and

WHEREAS, on December 30, 1900, after a sermon by Dr. A.W. Lamar of Nashville, a handful of devoted Christians organized themselves into a church and adopted the name Mt. Juliet Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, two years later, the first plans to construct a church building were formed and a lot named "The Old Gin Lot" was selected as the building site; and

WHEREAS, the First Baptist Church of Mt. Juliet has been blessed with capable leaders who have served the congregation with acumen and alacrity; Brethren J.H. Osment, W.F. Rice, and S.F. Freeman were elected on September 18, 1904 to serve the church as the congregation's first deacons; and

WHEREAS, the next year, the first trustees were appointed, and the first wedding took place in December of 1905 when Mr. Joe Hardaway took Miss Ethel Carver as his wife; and

WHEREAS, in that same month, the first sexton was employed for the church and Sunday School with the frame church dedication occurring six months later; and

WHEREAS, the first "series of meetings" were held in August of 1906 and was led by Brother G.A. Ogle, who preached earnestly and faithfully throughout the entire series of meetings; it lasted eight days and resulted in a great spiritual revival with eight conversions, eleven baptisms, and seven people joined by letter; and

WHEREAS, in 1922, the First Baptist Church of Mt. Juliet joined the Wilson County Association; and

WHEREAS, on Sunday morning, March 6, 1938, the church building burned for the first of two times; the congregation met at the public school after both fires until a new building could be constructed; and

WHEREAS, the members of the First Baptist Church of Mt. Juliet possess a benevolent nature that knows no bounds, and they are always eager to lend a helping hand to those in need; when the Mt. Juliet High School burned in 1946, the church invited the school to use any part of the church they needed; and

WHEREAS, due to tremendous growth over the years, the church has expanded its facilities to meet the needs of its members, accumulating added parking space, a playground, a kindergarten, recreational facilities, an educational building, an enlarged auditorium, expanding the building with added classrooms, a library, and the Family Life Center; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, the church changed its name from Mt. Juliet Baptist Church to its current name of the First Baptist Church of Mt. Juliet; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, the Mt. Juliet Christian Academy was started to give children a quality education embedded with Christian values; and

WHEREAS, the growing church also expanded its ministries to include a prayer ministry, in addition to hiring a full-time children's minister to the staff to accommodate the diverse needs of the membership; and

WHEREAS, 100 years later, the First Baptist Church of Mt. Juliet stands today as a welcoming fellowship, striving to be faithful in worship, discipleship, and reaching into the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, for 100 years, this blessed church and its congregation have grown and prospered as an institution of time-honored family values and selfless love; and

WHEREAS, the past has been good to the First Baptist Church of Mt. Juliet, and the future promises continued blessings for the good people who comprise the membership of the church's congregation; and

WHEREAS, religious organizations such as the First Baptist Church of Mt. Juliet are truly the rock-solid foundation upon which our society is built and a beacon of sanity and continuity in these turbulent times, and the members of this fine congregation should be appropriately honored for their exemplary service to their fellow Christians and to the good people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby pause to honor and congratulate the congregation at the First Baptist Church of Mt. Juliet on the celebration of its 100th anniversary and extend to them our best wishes for every future happiness in service to the Lord.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.